Lesson Six: The Present Tense Verb in the State of Nasb [نَصْب]

PRINCIPLE ONE

Certain words when placed before a verb alter its meaning. These are called *particles*. For example, the particle " **مَا** " negates the *past tense verb*, and the particle " **لاَ** " negates the *present tense verb* (*lessons three and four*).

PRINCIPLE TWO

Particles that change the meaning of a verb often affect its *grammatical state* as well. The following four particles, when placed before the *present tense verb*, cause it to enter the *state* of *nasb* (**نَصْب**)[19]:

1) **أَنْ**
2) **لَنْ**
3) **كَيْ**
4) **إِذَنْ**

PRINCIPLE THREE

Changes in *grammatical state* are reflected at the end of a word by either (1) changes in voweling or (2) changes in lettering. If the *present tense verb* ends with a *dammah* (ُ) in the *state* of *rafa'* (**رَفْع**), the *dammah* is changed to a *fathah* (َ) to reflect the *state* of *nasb* (**نَصْب**). If the verb ends in a *nūn* (**ن**) in the *state* of *rafa'* (**رَفْع**), the *nūn* is dropped to reflect the *state* of *nasb* (**نَصْب**) [*table 6.1*].

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[19] These particles do not have independent meaning. When placed before the *present tense verb*, they act to alter its meaning. Refer to higher-level books of Arabic grammar for a discussion of how each of these particles changes the meaning of a verb.

PRINCIPLE FOUR

The two *stateless* (مَبْنِي) conjugations of the *present tense verb* (i.e., the second and third person feminine plurals) never enter *states* (*lesson five, principle five*). The four particles that cause the *state* of *nasb* (نَصْب) do not alter these two conjugations, and the final *nūn* on each of these conjugations does not drop from the end of the verb (*table 6.1*).

PRINCIPLE FIVE

The particle لَنْ is used as a model to illustrate the *state* of *nasb* (نَصْب). This particle changes the verb from its default *state* of *rafa'* (رَفْع) to the *state* of *nasb* (نَصْب). Furthermore, it alters the meaning of the verb by (1) limiting the present tense to the future tense and (2) negating it. Thus يَفْعَلُ (*he does*) becomes لَنْ يَفْعَلَ (*he will never do*).

ESSENTIAL NOTE

The conjugations of the *present tense verb* in the *state* of *nasb* (نَصْب) must be memorized (*table 6.2*) before moving to the next lesson.

TABLE 6.1

EXPRESSING THE *STATE* OF *NASB*

VERB IN ORIGINAL *RAFA'*	**SIGN OF *RAFA'***		**PARTICLE CAUSING *NASB***	**MEANS OF SHOWING *NASB***		**ACTIVE VOICE IN *NASB***
يَفْعَلُ He/It (S/M) does	Final *dammah*	+	لَنْ	Change final *dammah* to *fathah*	⇨	لَنْ يَفْعَلَ He/It (S/M) will never do
يَفْعَلَانِ They (D/M) do	Final *nūn*	+	لَنْ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لَنْ يَفْعَلَا They (D/M) will never do
يَفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) do	Final *nūn*	+	لَنْ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لَنْ يَفْعَلُوْا They (P/M) will never do
تَفْعَلُ She/It (S/F) does	Final *dammah*	+	لَنْ	Change final *dammah* to *fathah*	⇨	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ She/It (S/F) will never do
تَفْعَلَانِ They (D/F) do	Final *nūn*	+	لَنْ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا They (D/F) will never do
يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) do	*Stateless* (مَبْنِي)	+	لَنْ	No change	⇨	لَنْ يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will never do
تَفْعَلُ You (S/M) do	Final *dammah*	+	لَنْ	Change final *dammah* to *fathah*	⇨	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ You (S/M) will never do
تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/M) do	Final *nūn*	+	لَنْ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا You (D/M) will never do
تَفْعَلُوْنَ You (P/M) do	Final *nūn*	+	لَنْ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لَنْ تَفْعَلُوْا You (P/M) will never do
تَفْعَلِيْنَ You (S/F) do	Final *nūn*	+	لَنْ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لَنْ تَفْعَلِيْ You (S/F) will never do
تَفْعَلَانِ You (D/F) do	Final *nūn*	+	لَنْ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لَنْ تَفْعَلَا You (D/F) will never do
تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) do	*Stateless* (مَبْنِي)	+	لَنْ	No change	⇨	لَنْ تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will never do
أَفْعَلُ I do	Final *dammah*	+	لَنْ	Change final *dammah* to *fathah*	⇨	لَنْ أَفْعَلَ I will never do
نَفْعَلُ We do	Final *dammah*	+	لَنْ	Change final *dammah* to *fathah*	⇨	لَنْ نَفْعَلَ We will never do

TABLE 6.2

THE *PRESENT TENSE VERB* IN THE *STATE* OF *NASB*

PASSIVE VOICE IN *NASB*	ACTIVE VOICE IN *NASB*
لَنْ يُفْعَلَ He/It (S/M) will never be done	لَنْ يَفْعَلَ He/It (S/M) will never do
لَنْ يُفْعَلاَ They (D/M) will never be done	لَنْ يَفْعَلاَ They (D/M) will never do
لَنْ يُفْعَلُوْا They (P/M) will never be done	لَنْ يَفْعَلُوْا They (P/M) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلَ She/It (S/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ She/It (S/F) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلاَ They (D/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلاَ They (D/F) will never do
لَنْ يُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will never be done	لَنْ يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلَ You (S/M) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلَ You (S/M) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلاَ You (D/M) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلاَ You (D/M) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلُوْا You (P/M) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلُوْا You (P/M) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلِيْ You (S/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلِيْ You (S/F) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلاَ You (D/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلاَ You (D/F) will never do
لَنْ تُفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will never be done	لَنْ تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F) will never do
لَنْ أُفْعَلَ I will never be done	لَنْ أَفْعَلَ I will never do
لَنْ نُفْعَلَ We will never be done	لَنْ نَفْعَلَ We will never do

M=Masculine F=Feminine S=Singular D=Dual P=Plural